

Final Minutes
October 13, 2004
Weare Conservation Commission

Members present were: Tom Carr, Steve Najjar, Pat Myers, Andrea Alderman, Andy Fulton, and John Ciampi.

Guest included Glenn DuBois, local trapper.

1) Minutes read – John read the draft minutes of September 8, 2004. Changes included: #1, 1st line, delete the parenthesis sign; in #2, 1st bullet, 2nd line, the word *changer* shall be corrected to *changed*; #6, 2nd bullet, 1st line, the word *drafted* shall be changed to *requested*. Pat Myers made motion to accept the minutes as amended, and John 2nd. All voted in favor of accepting. Motion carried.

2) Glenn Dubois – Tom read a letter to the Commission and the general audience, written by Mr. DuBois to the BOS, requesting permission to trap on the 207 acre Wood Conservation Property, parcel 411/160. Mr. DuBois is also seeking permission to drive on the access road included on the property to tend his traps. Mr. DuBois's letter stated that he previously was allowed to trap the property and use the access road for nearly two decades. Mr. DuBois confirmed that he is duly certified as a legitimate trapper in NH, and also enclosed a copy of his wildlife operator's permit, level one. This permit limits the species he is allowed to trap, and also allows a trapper to do animal control work during the off season. He maintains he is not required to attend trapper education because he is legitimately grandfathered. He further stated that this pursuit is done strictly as a hobby, and goes on to say he is currently a member of the NH Trappers Association, member for 34 years of the Goffstown Fish and Game Association, a 30 year member of a law enforcement agency, and is a life long resident of Goffstown. Glenn mentioned that he will contact the Parks and Recreation Committee to ascertain when the gate to the Bolton field is open so he could access the property if allowed.

The BOS has not acted on this matter because they are waiting for the recommendation provided from the WCC. Discussion followed between Mr. DuBois and the Commission, and the highlights of it are as follows

- Tom: "what kinds of animals do you trap"? Glenn: "coyote, fox, mink, fisher and otter".
- Pat: "what kind of (trap) sets do you use for fisher"? Glenn: two kinds – a tree set and a mechanical trap, either a body gripper or a leg gripper.
- Tom: "how often are the traps checked"? Mr. DuBois: "at least every 24 hours. However, Beaver traps can go as long as every 72 hours".
- Mr. DuBois gave a briefing on the different types of traps, their uses, how they operate. They are sized by numbers, starting with size 110, with the number increasing as the power of the spring and dimensions increase. Leg grippers are designed to prevent serious harm to the animal in the event there is a cause to release it. Glenn uses body grippers almost exclusively on beavers.

- Andy: "how is the animal dispatched when caught in a leg gripper"? Glenn: "22 longs".
- Tom: "What happens when you catch something you want to release"? Glenn: "Use a catch pole".
- Andy: "How many traps do you set out"? Glenn: "Depends how much time I have. But generally from 10 to 50 traps".
- John: "What do you do with the hides"? Mr. DuBois "Sell them at the Trappers Convention".
- Pat: "So you don't clean the hides yourself"? Glenn: "I do. The process is to skin the animal, clean off any excess fat, stretch the hide, and dry it".
- Andy: "Do you skin the animals on site"? Glenn: "Yes, for the most part. Beaver is always done on site because of their size".
- Andy: "What happens to the carcass"? Mr. DuBois: "It's left out for the scavengers".
- Andy: "How long is the season"? Mr. DuBois: "Opens Nov. 1 for canines, raccoon, just about everything on Nov. 1, except fisher which opens Dec. 1, and closes Dec. 31. ' Coon, fox closes Jan. 15, no closed season on coyotes, beaver and otter go until April 10.
- Andy: "How many animals would you typically take from the Wood property in one season"? Glenn: "Probably two fisher, no beaver because there is a request from the Woods' not to trap them.
- Andy: "What would happen if for some reason you weren't able to get back to the set trap within the established time limit"? Glenn: "I would have to contact a conservation officer and try and have someone else check the trap. However, I have never run into that problem."
- Tom: "What is the difference between a trapper's license and a wildlife control operator's license"? Glenn: "A trapper's license is for the regular trapping during the season, and a control operator's license is for off season when it is necessary to trap an animal that has become a nuisance".
- Pat: "I assume you couldn't use the animal control license unless there was a request". Glenn: "Correct".
- Andrea: "How does Fish and Game determine how much you can take in a season"? Glenn: "I don't know. But I know there is some kind of formula that is used".
- Tom: "How much of the property do you think you walk during your travels"? Glenn: "About 10 – 15%".
- Tom: "So you make it all the way to (Chris) Bolton's property". Glenn: "Yes, and I now have permission to trap there".
- Andy: "How do you remember where all the traps are"? Glenn: "You just do. I've never forgotten where they are".
- Pat: "If you caught two Fisher in a certain area, you say you would release any more that may be caught. What about the other species"? Glenn: "It depends how prolific the animal species are in the area . I've never caught more than two Otter in any area because they are a far ranging and not a high density animal".

- Pat: “Do you see a decline in the species you’ve been trapping”? Glenn: “No. The populations go up and down. There are some seasons when no species are taken, and some when there is an abundant harvest”.
- Tom: “What do you believe the survival rate is for released animals”? Glenn: “I don’t have a basic knowledge of the studies, but I haven’t had to release many of them. Most caught in a foot trap only end up with a fat foot, so the survival rate would be very high if the foot isn’t broken”.
- Pat: “What would happen if we approved trapping on the property, but did not allow you to use the access road”? Glenn: “It would curtail how much of the land I could use, so it would be a problem in that regard”.
- Tom: “Are you aware of any other trappers in there”? Glenn: “Not that I’m aware of”.

After Mr. Dubois’s presented the facts concerning his trapping operation, the Commission began discussion among its members. Pat is concerned about granting permission to use the access road, and she believes it never was intended to be used for access. Steve advanced the notion that he would like to see a local Wildlife Management Report stating the species, sex, take, weight, etc. and sent to the WCC. Pat is also concerned about the taking of predator animals, of which there are fewer, verses the already accepted practice of hunting prey animals, which of course, is mainly deer. Therefore, allowing trapping would tend to violate the purpose of acquiring conservation land in the first place since one intent of having conservation land is to provide a place that allows these species to thrive. And Pat would like a justification for the reason to trap animals that are not likely to overpopulate. Steve raised the issue that if certain animals proliferate they can prey on other more endangered species, such as threatened turtles, so wildlife management is desirable. Pat responded that large acreage should be able to manage itself, and it would be unfeasible, time wise, to do it on a regular basis. Steve replied that wildlife management is common, for instance, Fish and Game regularly monitors specie numbers on certain properties. Pat countered that if lands are properly and adequately monitored, how is it that the otter bag limit has gone up, when the amount of roaming territory has decreased? Steve rejoined that there are many variables to consider, for instance fewer trappers, and less farm land, so many changes can occur in the environment causing the populations of animals to fluctuate, causing some species to be more prevalent today then they were decades ago. Steve added that his concept of management would be on a simple level, for instance, asking a trapper not to trap beavers in a certain pond in order to protect its environmental integrity. Pat responded by saying that we have no reason to manage the animals on this (Wood) property. Steve retorted that *any* decision made is in effect managing the property. Andrea stated that species management is highly managed with the aid of a wildlife biologist, so decisions affecting bag limits on selected species are professionally determined. Andy opined that he struggles to see a detrimental reason to deny trapping on conservation land since he sees loss of wildlife habitat as a greater impact to the decline of animal species, and also, trapping is revocable and can be regulated. He added that on the road access issue, more thought needs to be put into it. John added that he believes the animal

population has generally increased so he doesn't see a serious threat to the wildlife population; however, he has expressed concern about general use of the access road for trapping or hunting purposes. Andy recommended granting permission to use the access road on a case by case petition. Tom responded that it would be unlikely that permission would be granted to another trapper, to which Andy responded that in that case, some flexibility would have to be considered if other folks wish to use the land. Steve pointed out that there needs to be some kind of preconceived format in dealing with this issue in the future event should it arise with some other conservation land, and added that the access road should be treated separately. Andy pointed out that snowmobilers can still use the access road, in which Pat countered that they have permission to use the snowmobile trail which is different. Mr. DuBois said he stops trapping after more than 6 inches of snow. Andy made motion to allow trapping on this parcel, and Pat 2nd. All voted in favor. Motion carries. As for the access road, it was agreed by the members that it shall not be used for hunting purposes, only for trapping, and that permission to use the road shall be reviewed on a yearly basis.

4) Robert Richards – has applied for a minimum expedited on lot 411/289, area of impact 2860 sq. ft. Mr. Richards wants to improve an existing logging road to driveway standards so that he can build on his lot. He stated that he cannot begin constructing his house until he has permission to construct, and complete construction of the driveway, and now would be the best time to construct it before the hard freeze. Problem is that no more building permits are being issued until Dec. 1, but by then it would not be feasible to pour cement. Tom suggested that he would call Chip Meeney, town building inspector, and inform him that once the Wetlands Permit is issued, and as long as the Commission supports it, Tom sees no reason to deny permission to construct the drive. However, Tom cautioned Mr. Richards that this is only a recommendation to the building inspector, so final approval will be left up to him. The Commission voted to accept and sign the application.

5) Wetland Bureau actions:

- File number 2004-02131, D.O.T. expedited application to perform routine roadway maintenance on Center Rd. and Rt. 114, received complete.
- S.E.A. consultants, Inc., Abijah Bridge replacement, with plans to install a check dam, has been rejected for lack of funding. Concerning the bridge construction, wetland impacts are as follows: Temporary impact in prime wetland = 1580 sq. ft, and permanent impact = 3200 sq. ft., for a total of 4780 sq. ft. Total wetland temporary impact = 2950 sq. ft., and permanent impact = 7150 sq. ft. for a total of 10100 sq. ft. A standard application is being used. Tom noted that he will call Margaret Watkins of the PWA and discuss other options concerning the now defunct check dam project.
- File number 2004-02131, D.O.T. application to construct a retaining wall has been approved.

- File number 2004-01584, Gary Bedard, Dustin Tavern Rd, has received a letter from DES, warning him to respond to a wetland violation relating to a driveway installation without a wetland permit.
- File number 2004-02432, concerning rip-rap on River Rd., had supplemental information sent to them by Tom Carr to Jeffrey Lacharzec (?) on behalf of the Town of Weare, taking care of the wetland scientist requirements for this project, pro bono, and not acting as a representative of the WCC nor Mederian Land Services, Inc..
- File number 2004-02291, Dorothy Cleaves Revocable Trust, on map410/182, complete forestry notification.
- File number 2004-02250, Karen Remillard, complete forestry notification on map407/55.
- File number 041005-01, site specific file for Mt. William Inc., has applied for an application to remove 1,482,000 sq. ft. for gravel removal.

6) Zoning Board – Robert Bailey, map 407/153.1, located on Rt. 149, request variance to use existing deeded access easement over adjacent lot for access rather than using frontage, because this route would require a wetland permit and steep slopes would be a concern. Building Department rejected the plan because the existing drive has several other lots connected to it. Tom read a letter to Mr. Bailey from Mr. Lacharzic, district wetland inspector for DES who related that the applicant is required to first demonstrate avoidance and then act on minimization concerning the wetland. DES feels that crossing the wet area does not exhibit least impact and recommends reviewing other options. Mr. Bailey wishes the Commission to support DES in their finding. Adding to further supporting DES is that the brook under consideration feeds into Perkins Pond, a prime wetland, which would receive runoff of silt and debris from the brook. Additionally, the slope is very steep, which would certainly not meet the requirement for a maximum 10% grade. Pat made motion to draft a letter to ZBA in order to support DES's recommendation. John 2nd. All voted to support it, and the motion carries.

7) Deliberative Session – Saturday, Feb. 5th, 10AM is the town Deliberative Session, to be held at Center Wood Elementary School. Tom mentioned he is hoping for the warrant article to hire an administrative assistant for the Commission would pass.

8) BOS Meetings – Tom made mention that from now on the BOS meetings will now have a general communication slot open to the various commissions/ boards/ committees to promote communication/agenda, and no prior notice is required.

9) Budget – Selectmen request that the proposed budgets be submitted by Oct. 11. Steve reminded the Commission that the Open Space Committee, being a subcommittee of the WCC, will have expenses such as postage, photocopies, training, etc. The 2005 budget, agreed upon by the WCC, is as follows: Photo/Maps - \$10; Telephone - \$10; Training - \$300; Commission Dues - \$255; Mileage - \$20; Misc; -

\$25; Photocopies - \$15; Office Supplies - \$60; Postage - \$50; Books/Updates - \$40, for a proposed budget of \$785.

10) Land Monitoring Reports – Tom reported that they are in. The Alex Parcel needs a new monitor, since Michael Manna, former Conservation member, isn't able to monitor anymore. Tom said he would monitor the Kingsbury Property, and John will walk Collins Landing. Steve volunteered to walk the Alex Land. Pat agreed to monitor the Craney Hill Property. The Toby Hill Land will be monitored in conjunction with Kingsbury.

11) NHACC – The annual New Hampshire Association for Conservation Commission is slated for Nov. 6th, so members are urged to sign up for it.

12) OSC Review – Steve related to Tom that the Committee pondered whether to make “follow up” calls to those who did not as yet respond to the letters that were sent out several weeks ago. Tom replied that he is OK with that. Pat mentioned to Tom that Frank Bolton, local land owner, may want to speak with the OSC in private, and Pat queried about the ramifications of this, and Tom suggested that she contact Bob Christiansen. Steve brought up the issue of town owned property, acquired by default such as back taxes, which may have conservation value, such as Chevy Hill. Steve suggested placing some of the more suitable properties on a warrant article.

13) Wood Property Cleanup – Tom is asking for volunteers to help cleanup debris on the Wood Property such as an old trailer, some barrels, and trash scattered about, and would take about 2-3 hours. Tom would use his bucket loader to aid this project. Date for this undertaking has been scheduled for Oct. 30th at 9 AM.

14) Andrea Alderman Upgrade – Tom asked that Andrea be upgraded from an alternate member to a full voting member of the WCC. All agreed. Having made this statement, Tom will put the request to the Select board to officially authorize the upgrade. And by the same token, Ellen Dokton will be reappointed to status of alternate member.

15) Planning Board:

- Horace and Phyllis Irrevocable Trust LLA – On John Stark Highway, purpose is to eliminate a lot line, taking 2.5 acres from lot 411/103 and adding it to lot 411/102. Both lots are in current use, and considering that the newly formed lot is less than 10 acres, there is confusion on the current use status.
- Dennis Demers – On Old Town Rd., lot 109/53. Purpose is to subdivide the existing building on lot 109/53 into two condominium units, 161A and 161B. Note to Planning: there is no wetland delineation signature.
- Roger Hardy Construction, LLC – lot 406/47, on East side of River Rd. Purpose is to subdivide lot 406/47 into three residential lots. No

issues to Planning. Tom stepped down due to involvement in the project.

16) Adjournment – Andy made motion to adjourn, and Steve 2nd. All voted in favor and motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 10:44 PM.

Duly Recorded as a True Record,

John Ciampi

cc:BOS
Town Clerk
Commission Files
Tina Pelletier